



JOINT IED DEFEAT ORGANIZATION NEWS STORY



ATTACK THE NETWORK — DEFEAT THE DEVICE — TRAIN THE FORCE

JIEDDO Prepares for Upcoming Budget Changes

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Amid concerns on a shrinking Pentagon budget, the Joint IED Defeat Organization is working with congressional appropriators by proactively identifying counter-IED initiatives that can be transferred to the military services or cancelled.

In October 2010, JIEDDO submitted its 2012 budget request for \$3.25 billion. To ensure the JIEDDO efforts live on in a service budget, appropriators reduced JIEDDO's funding by \$672 million with \$343 million transferred to the military departments at JIEDDO's request.

“While this represents reduction from our fiscal year 2011 request, this is not un-expected based on our regular dialogues with congressional staff,” said Capt. Doug Borrebach, JIEDDO's deputy director, requirements and resources. “Also, important to note, nearly all of the reduction in the Joint IED Defeat Fund represents transfer of the money to a military department for long-term continuation of the initiative. It is important to recognize the dynamic nature of our business. As we "rapidly" develop C-IED capabilities, we are always susceptible to changing conditions. These changes often result in funding profiles shifting. For the most part, these funding shifts are minor. However, occasionally, we do experience some significant ones as we did for the \$329M.”

An integral part of JIEDDO's mission is to rapidly develop and field counter-IED capabilities to the warfighter. With a two-year budget, if a transition proves itself, it is transferred to the services, otherwise the initiative is terminated.

This occurred, Borrebach said, when an attack-the-network initiative, Blue Devil Block 2, was identified to Congress as an initiative able to be transferred to the Air Force for management and future resourcing. Accordingly, JIEDDO asked that \$56 million be shifted.

After JIEDDO's budget was submitted to Congress, two other counter-IED initiatives, Vader and Copperhead, were experiencing operational/testing issues at the time. A collaborative JIEDDO and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency project, Vader is a sensor-based radar. Copperhead is a developmental counter-IED capability for detection of command wire targets.

Risk is part of JIEDDO's calculus, given the seriousness and urgency of warfighters' needs. Mindful of transparency, JIEDDO informed Congress the phasing of resources would slip and in the case of Copperhead, may even be terminated, allowing Congress to remove another \$329 million from the original request.

While Vader was shifted to the Air Force along with \$88 million, the remaining \$153 million was not expected to be executed in fiscal year 2011; therefore, Congress reduced the identified resources because the requirement changed.

Similarly, Copperhead was not performing as expected in the area for which it was being tested. Accordingly, Congress adjusted JIEDDO's request based on that information as well.

"It is also important to note," Borrebach said, "that JIEDDO did request that nearly all of the \$329 million be reapplied to our joint urgent operational need response wedge for additional requirements expected this fiscal year. However, it appears that was not accepted as an alternative."

"For JIEDDO, it is all about ensuring we have the necessary resources to support the troops downrange," he said.

When Congress reviewed JIEDDO's budget, it was advised that two programs were experiencing some challenges and that the required funding was going to be less than what was planned for fiscal year 2011.

"An option could have been to allow JIEDDO to keep those funds in reserve for emergent needs," Borrebach said. They decided not to do that and that is certainly their prerogative. As an aside, the

appropriators along with the authorizers have been very complimentary of how JIEDDO is conducting business. The relationship is strong and we believe Congress has much greater confidence in how JIEDDO is applying available resources in support of the combatant commanders and their deployed troops."

JIEDDO is engaging with congressional members to ensure support to existing and emerging threats. JIEDDO is currently working to mitigate threats, specifically for dismounted operations in Afghanistan with three pre-deployment training initiatives, four equipment/technology initiatives that include increased pelvic region protection and improved data collection and analysis.

"We continue to be very thankful to Congress and the American taxpayers for their continued support," Borrebach said. "We know we are in tough economic times and JIEDDO is committed to being exceptional stewards of the American taxpayers dollars."

Since standing up in 2006 as a temporary organization to address urgent warfighter needs, JIEDDO focuses on rapidly developing counter-IED capabilities and provided extensive information to the Department of Defense and Congress to support each budget request. Budget execution plan provide framework and flexibility to plan and respond to changing battlefield requirements.

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